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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD DISTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATION
Great Lakes Region
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Statement by Lt. Col. Jay L. Taylor, Deputy Administrator, War Food Administration, at a joint meeting of the Cattle and Beef Industry Advisory Committee and members of the War Meat Board at Chicago, Illinois, June 8, 1943.

Some livestock and meat groups have been disturbed recently by speculation in various quarters on shifts in food production programs and in the diet of the American people said to be under consideration in the War Food Administration. Some reports have stated that WFA officials are planning for a heavy cut in animal products and a great step-up in cereal and vegetable protein foods, like wheat and dry beans; also on a change in the civilian diet with sharp reduction of meat and considerable increases in dry beans, potatoes, cereals, etc.

Now, of course, we have to adjust our producing and eating habits to the requirements of war. We all should hold ourselves ready for changes, and willingly make the necessary alterations in what we produce and what we eat. No one can foresee all that is going to happen and lay down a plan which will be carried through without any variation.

But I want to bring you assurance direct from Administrator Davis that there is no intent to make drastic cuts in output of animal products and replace them in large part in the American diet with vegetable foods.

Here is the situation as we see it today:

First, for the sake of morale, and good nutrition, we want to see the maximum possible amount of meat, milk, and eggs in the diet of the American armed forces, civilians, and the allies to whom we send part of their food supply.

Second, there is a limit placed by feed resources on the amount of these foods we can produce. These limits were stated in the report from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the livestock and feed situation issued by Administrator Davis on April 22. That report stated that (I'm quoting) . . ." . . . Livestock production is now at record height, . . . further increases are in prospect, and . . . livestock numbers will have to be leveled off and perhaps reduced unless additional sources of feed are developed or unusually favorable yields of feed grain are realized in 1943."

In transmitting this report, Mr. Davis called for a vigorous program of feed conservation to make the supplies go just as far as possible, and announced that the War Food Administration would try to increase the supply of feed by importations. The obvious intent is to keep the feed supply at a level which will maintain milk, egg and meat production at the highest possible level permitted by our feed supplies. We will produce and market much more meat in the coming 12 months than in the past 12 months, as a matter of fact. The War Food Administration is glad that this is to be so.

But, in the third place, even though we produce, and import feed enough to maintain a high level of livestock output, there still will not be enough meat, milk, and eggs to meet the demand of all the claimants. Our civilians with the greatest buying power ever known would take more, if they could get it. So would our armed forces. So would our allies. And if and when we start liberating the conquered peoples, we shall face another group of claimants who would take great quantities, if they could get them.

Now in the fourth place, we want to feed all these fighters and workers just as well as we can feed them. Since it is impossible to meet all the

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potatoes, and the oilseeds. That is the only way to provide adequate nourishment for all the people who have to get it from us in order to produce and fight most effectively.

The policy, then, boils down to this: Grow all the feed possible in the light of requirements for other farm products; import all the feed possible; waste not a single pound of feed; thus maintain milk, egg and meat production at the highest possible level permitted by our feed supplies. At the same time make sure we have adequate nourishment for all hands by increasing output of vegetable foods for direct consumption.

"In the light of this policy, it behooves each individual producer, particularly in the areas that normally import feed, to use every means he can to increase his own feed production and reduce his dependence on purchased feeds. Farmers will be surprised at how much they can do to increase feed production by better management of hay and pasture land; by arranging for supplementary pasture crops to be available in the late summer and fall; and by the most rigid care in using both home grown feeds and purchased feeds."

